

MINUTES

Chatham Township Environmental Commission meeting

Tuesday November 3, 2009

CTEC'S PURPOSE: To undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources and air quality, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2009 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and mentioned on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. It has also been published in the Chatham Courier and Daily Record newspapers. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

ROLL CALL: Commissioners attending were R. Barrett, O. Raadam, S. Carroll, S. Hoag, L. Caprioglio, F. Esposito, P. Collington, K. Abbott, D. Stillinger. Also attending were Daniel Eckert from the Alternative Press, Antonio Dimieri who is a neighbor of the Chatham Day School.

REPORT on new EC web page and demonstration of the private page. R. Barrett.

CTEC and Green Team minutes from meetings of October 6, 2009 were approved.

GREEN TEAM MEETING

No meeting. No word yet from Sustainable Jersey. All material for certification has been submitted. CTEC representative should attend the certification award ceremony if Chatham Township receives certification. S. Carroll, Green Team Chair.

REPORTS/DISCUSSION

- S. Hoag, L. Caprioglio, P. Collington, F. Esposito agreed to accept reappointment to the Environmental Commission for new terms starting in 2010.
- Meeting dates for 2010 and January 2011 will be the first Tuesday of the month except no meeting in July.
- Open Space Committee report. Report on sidewalk upgrade, may get D.O.T. grants. Morris County Park Commission will acquire all but 12 acres of the Platt property on Loantaka Way. S. Hoag.
- Planning Board report. 55 Mountain Avenue application is under discussion as is the issue of whether or not Rose Valle should be allowed to omit a pond liner. Rolling Knolls landfill discussion is continuing, letter of considerations of Planning Board sent to Township Committee. Shunpike Field was discussed. L. Caprioglio.
- Township Committee report. The Township Committee gave the go ahead to bid the Shunpike Field project and expects bid awards in December. The budget for the CTEC will be \$10k for 2010. W. O'Connor.
- Mr. Dimieri reported on the current status of the Chatham Day School application. It will be before the Board of Adjustment on November 19.
- Approved sending letter to new conservation easement property owner Maganti. D. Stillinger, S. Hoag, L. Caprioglio.
- Ten Towns Committee meeting on October 28. The Committee discussed its future. Next Ten Towns meeting Wednesday December 9 at 8 AM at the Garabrant Center in Mendham. All welcome. D. Stillinger.
- EC web site - report from Website Subcommittee. New EC website is online. Private page is available. Discussion of procedures for submitting material to website. Anything to go on public site should first get EC approval. F. Esposito, R. Barrett, P. Collington.
- Artificial turf at Shunpike Field. NJDEP has approved construction. Conservation easement required on lower portions of lot and on almost all of the adjoining lot. Tree buffer will be preserved, field to be made smaller, bids will be requested for material other than tire crumb as well as tire crumb. K. Abbott.
- Ground Water Protection Committee meeting was September 24. Next meeting November 12 at 10 AM at Willow Hall, 330 Speedwell Ave., Morristown. P. Collington.
- PSEG Corridor – Area completely cleaned out, possibly used some type of chemical, all vegetation gone. Letter to PSE&G approved at September CTEC meeting has been sent. Letter to Jeanne Fox, head of the BPU approved. Also, JCP&L has begun tree trimming under utility lines along streets. K. Abbott.
- Community Education and Outreach Committee report. P. Collington.

A copy of the notes below should also be included in the Chatham Township's Green Team Meeting/Notes Files.

1. Community Education & Outreach

a. Mandated School Recycling: The School District of The Chathams apparently never distributed, to the school/parent population, the Board Of Education's 'District-Wide School Recycling Policy.' The County requests schools to disseminate such recycling information. CTEC advised the School District and the Board of Ed. We sent the School Policy, along with a "School Sustainability Packet," to Principals and PTOS.

b. CTEC Presentations at PTO Meetings: School parents, PTO Members, the BOE President, and others have requested CTEC to make a presentation before the BOE and at PTO Meetings to explain recent environmental and sustainability programs, projects, and activities--especially those in which the schools are involved. The first presentation, by CTEC's Community Education & Outreach, is scheduled for Nov 19, 2009 at the Lafayette Avenue School PTO Meeting.

c. Composting: Residential & Educational: CTEC's Community Education & Outreach is currently developing a program for residents and for schools' educational efforts re composting.

CTEC learned of a program that Madison's Environmental Commission trialed this past spring. Madison EC has graciously invited Chatham Township EC to work together to expand the program. We accepted, and our Community Education & Outreach also contacted the Borough of Chatham. The Boro is helping us to investigate land use, health, and other issues that MAY pertain to composting--so we can incorporate any requirements into the program.

CTEC is currently designing a Program that will provide Madison, Chatham Township, and Chatham Borough residents and schools and PTO's etc. a free composting workshop and the ability to purchase residential size composters and rain barrels at deeply discounted prices. A free composting booklet will come with each composter and we will provide free, on line educational materials tailored to our local area's composting needs.

d. Girl Scouts of The Chathams' Troop # 944 is conducting a Sustainability Project in The Chathams for their Bronze Award. CTEC's Community Education & Outreach has been asked for support. We agreed and we were able to locate funding support the GS Project. In addition, we are coordinating with the Borough (as this project is applicable to both municipalities' "Sustainable Jersey Program" work and the partnering of several entities: the Twp, the Boro, the School District, and the Girl Scouts of The Chathams).

e. "School Sustainability Resource Packet" CTEC's Community Education & Outreach created this packet for schools, BOE, PTOs, School Environmental Clubs & Green Teams. It is being trialed first with a few of CTEC's Green Team Subcommittees and is planned to be an online document.

2. Recycling & Reuse Subcommittee

The recent expansion of the Twp's Recycling Program (added batteries and printer cartridges) is working very well. We are working get the annual Township flyer updated to reflect the changes to the Recycling Program. Noted: ~seven battery boxes were filled.

3. Groundwater Protection Committee (GWPC) October 2009 Meeting -- Highlights applicable to Chatham Township:

- the NJDEP's process for municipal adoption of the MODEL ordinance "Wellhead Protection Ordinance" remains complex and thus deters municipalities from considering this model ordinance.

- a groundwater "deficit" was identified in the Highlands Regional Master Plan, but the GWPC reports that, to date, the deficit is not being addressed adequately

-unlike years past, the GWPC will NOT host a seminar this year

- next GWPC meeting Nov 12th. CTEC will NOT be present at this meeting. GWPC will send us the Meeting Minutes

APPLICATION/LOI REVIEW

• NEW. JUNIPER COMMUNITIES, LLC. 500 Southern Blvd. 9-10-09. Block 128 Lot 3. Wetland permit application for General Permit for clearing of trees and vegetation for repair and maintenance to detention basin, allowed in original site plan approval, no changes to site plan proposed. CTEC members will inspect if necessary.

• NEW. 580 RIVER ROAD. 9-17-09. Block 62 Lot 56. LOI application. Property inspected from public right of way by Application Subcommittee members O. Raadam, F. Esposito, D. Stillinger. Property is on high side of River Road, no wetlands or wetland transition areas occur on property. No letter to DEP needed. Closed.

- NEW. ROLLING KNOLLS. 9-14-09. Block 48.20 Lot 189 (Owner Robert Miele) and Lot 189.01 (Owner Green Village Fire Department). Wetland permit application for General Permit for soil sampling. Plan to clear temporary paths in wetland transition areas to access sample locations outside of wetlands or wetland transition areas. Arcadis Engineering has been retained by the Rolling Knolls Landfill Settling Parties to do the work. CTEC members will visit site if time permits. Closed.
- NEW. ROSE VALLE. Application to Planning Board for change to original site plan approval to omit requirement for a pond liner. Comments were made at the Planning Board meeting on October 19 by CTEC member and Planning Board Liaison L. Caprioglio and CTEC member D. Stillinger. No further action required by CTEC. Closed.
- NEW. 55 MOUNTAIN AVE. Block 37 Lot 5.01. Discussed at the Planning Board meeting on October 19 and will be discussed again at the November 2 meeting. Mr. Majmudar has sued the Township and would like to be granted approval to build a larger house than called for in the previous settlement agreement. Open.
- PENDING. ROLLING KNOLLS. Britten Road Rear. Block 48.20 Lot 184 (15 acres, R-1, owner Robert Miele) and 189 (136 acres, R-1, owner Robert Miele). Mr. Fetterly has proposed a solar farm on the Rolling Knolls Landfill Superfund site. Proposed declaration of property by Planning Board as an Area in Need of Redevelopment. Current zoning is R-1 (1 dwelling per 3.5 acres). Nothing new.
- PENDING. THE FARM AT GREEN VILLAGE. 503 Green Village Road. 5-14-09. Block 48.18, Lots 140, 142, 143. Application to the Board of Adjustment for demolition and removal of an existing dilapidated shed and lean-to and replacement with a new barn, renovation and expansion of the farmhouse with a second story rear addition, construction of a new outdoor restroom facility. The business is entitled to continue and expand as a nonconforming use protected under the Right to Farm Act. Nothing new.
- PENDING. PSE&G PROPERTY ON SOUTHERN BOULEVARD. 6-4-09. Block 48.14, Lot 110. Verizon Wireless. Application to Board of Adjustment for preliminary and final site plan approval and use variance for transmission equipment and shed. They plan to add equipment to the top of the transmission tower behind the gazebo and to build an equipment shed at the rear of the gazebo parking area between the gazebo and the tower. Nothing new. O. Radaam, D. Stillinger.
- PENDING. CHATHAM DAY SCHOOL. 700 Shunpike Road. 6-26-09. Block 135, Lots 1 & 9. Application to Board of Adjustment for preliminary and final site plan approval and conditional use approval for a school in a residential zone. No construction is proposed. Application was withdrawn on September 17, 2009. S. Hoag, F. Esposito, D. Stillinger. Open.

ADJOURN